

REMARKS

Original claims 1-24 have been examined. Claims 10, 17, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, and independent claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,263,387 issued to Chrabaszc (herein "Chrabaszc") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,205,505 issued to Jau et al. (herein "Jau"). Independent claim 10 is rejected as obvious over Chrabaszc in view of Jau, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,195,650 issued to Gaither et al. (herein "Gaither"). Independent claim 24 is rejected as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,363,452 issued to Lach.

The specification is objected to for minor informalities. In response, Applicants amend the specification as suggested in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants request that the objection of the specification be withdrawn.

The drawings are objected to for minor informalities. In response, Applicants submit the missing drawing of FIG. 1 to replace the duplicate copy of FIG. 2, as suggested by the Office. Applicants also amend the specification to correct the informalities noted in FIG. 5. Accordingly, please approve the proposed amendments to the specification and replace the duplicate copy of FIG. 2 with the drawing of FIG. 1.

Claims 10, 17, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In response, Applicants amend claims 10 and 21 to correct the minor informalities indicated by the Office Action. However, Applicants traverse the rejection as applied to claim 17 because the subject matter "the appropriate driver" is found in claim 10, which claim 17 depends from. Applicants amend claim 17 to correct other minor informalities. Accordingly, for all these reasons, Applicants request that the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection of claims 10, 17, and 21 be withdrawn.

The Office Action asserts that Col. 2, lines 4 through 7 of Jau disclose the uninstalling step as recited in claim 1. However, the program as described in Jau is *removed* when the peripheral is disconnected (Jau, Col. 2, lines 4 through 7). Applicants submit that the removal of the program in Jau is not the same as uninstalling the appropriate device driver as recited in the claims. Thus, at best, Jau discloses the device driver being deactivated. In other words, even under the broadest reasonable

interpretation, the use of the term "removed" as described in Jau is not the same as the "uninstalling" recited in the claims. Thus, contrary to the Office's assertion, Jau does not disclose "automatically *uninstalling* the appropriate device driver upon disconnection of the port device from the port, such that the port device is inaccessible by the client," as recited in claim 1.

Moreover, the Office Action asserts that Col. 10, line 51 through Col. 12, line 3, of Chrabaszczyk disclose the installing step as recited in claim 1. However, Chrabaszczyk describes that in state 814, the program announces the detection of the new device and prompts a user to enter the additionally required values (Chrabaszczyk, Col. 11, lines 49-52, FIG. 8). Because Chrabaszczyk requires user interaction, it is not automatic. In contrast to Chrabaszczyk, the present invention automatically installs the device driver, as specifically recited in the claims. Thus, for these reasons, Applicants submit Chrabaszczyk does not disclose "*automatically installing an appropriate device driver* for the port device upon connection thereof to the port, such that the port device is accessible by clients communicatively coupled to the server," as recited in the claims.

For the reasons stated in the remarks relating to claim 1, the cited references also do not disclose all the recited claim elements. Specifically, the combination, whether proper or improper, fails to teach the expressly recited claim elements, and therefore cannot as a matter of law make obvious claim 10. In particular, the cited references do not disclose or suggest the "monitor" that causes an "*automatic installation of an appropriate device driver* for the port device upon connection thereof to the port, such that the device is accessible by the clients, and *automatic uninstallation of the appropriate device driver* upon disconnection of the port device from the port, such that the port device is inaccessible by the clients," as recited in claim 10. Accordingly, it is requested that the rejection of claim 10 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 2-9 and 11-23 depend from claims 1 and 10, respectively. It is submitted that the dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims given in the remarks and amendments above. Applicants reserve the right to present further arguments in the future with regard to these dependent claims in the event

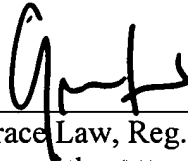
that the independent claims are deemed unpatentable. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection of claims 2-9 and 11-23 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The Office Action asserts that the features recited in claim 24 are disclosed by Lach (FIG. 6) combined with an Official Notice that a manual driver installation and uninstallation is well known in the art. However, there is no valid motivation given to combine Lach and the Official Notice. Although Lach discloses loading a device driver for a newly installed adapted card (Col. 6, lines 47-49), there is no disclosure of the driver being uninstalled when the card is disconnected, which the Office acknowledges. The motivation given by the Office for the cited combination is that "it [installation and uninstallation] would have allowed for greater flexibility of computer configuration." However, this stated motivation is not based on the references or any shortcoming that Lach actually has. For example, Lach's invention relates to the problem of a computer system that permits the addition or removal of components without powering down the server (Lach, Col. 1, lines 6 through 9), whereas the present invention relates to the problem of uninstalling the device drivers such that the user cannot access the inaccessible device that has been disconnected from a port. Moreover, there is no cited or evident expectation of success in the asserted combination, or any explanation of what "success" would be, since the cited problems to be solved are absent in the art itself. For the foregoing reasons, the cited art does not disclose or suggest "a first state-to-second state transition based on a device driver installation event," "a second state-to-first state transition based on a device driver uninstallation event," "a third state-to-fourth state transition based on the device driver installation event," and "a fourth state-to-third state transition based on the device driver uninstallation event," as recited in claim 24. Thus, for the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request that claim 24 be favorably reconsidered and that the Section 103 rejection of claim 24 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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